

FREE ZONE

MOTORING • COMPUTING • ACTIVITIES

■ WHEN I first remember loving cars, they were toys — real toys, that lasted for years.

In 1938 Henry Ford believed his car would last for years. He went around the country beating it with a sledge hammer. Then in the '50s a new phrase was coined, "Young man, the future is in plastics."

Over the years plastic cars have meant toy cars. But I looked at a new one the other day that's built by GM, and I'm sure it's plastic. It's called the APV. I'm told that means "all plastic vehicle."

It's a great idea, but certainly not new. But the design is new. Wouldn't it be great to buy a Cadillac or a Z24 made of all plastic parts? Try to imagine an everyday car that wouldn't rust. I believe that's what Henry Ford had in mind when he built his 1938 soybean "all plastic car."

If you haven't looked at the new GM APV, I suggest doing so. One of the best characteristics of today's all plastic cars is safety. They should be as safe as, if not safer, than any car we build. Most race cars use plastic bodies. With all the racing accidents, very few drivers are seriously hurt.

People who predict say by 1995 as many as 35-40 per cent of all cars could be APV. That will be good for everyone. And you can be sure either the Japanese or the Europeans will come up with economically priced all plastic cars.

Question of the Week:

■ Dear Car Bob: I own a 1981 car with low mileage. The other day it quit in the middle of a busy intersection. After getting pushed into a filling station, the owner said my battery cables were dirty and cleaned them. My question is, should I buy new battery cables? My battery is only six months old. — Cleaned Up in Worthington, Ohio.

★ Dear Cleaned Up: No! A spring checkup should have found this problem. A good rule of thumb is that if you don't know what is wrong or what to do, and you are lucky enough to find someone who gets you on your way without charging you the price of an overstuffed moose head, take their advice. Old battery cables don't need to be thrown away; just keep them clean. — Car Bob.

Affordable printers at PC show in Amman

By Khaldoon Tabaza
Special to The Star

JORDANIAN USERS of personal computers (PC) had a great opportunity this week to see some of the latest technologies in the PC world. A computer exhibition exclusively dedicated to personal computers was opened in the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman on Monday.

The exhibit, which was opened by the Minister of Planning, Dr. Khalid Amin Abdullah, was organized by General Computers and Electronics (GCE), IBM dealers in Jordan, in association with its two sister companies, Computer and Engineering Bureau (CEB) and International Systems and Electronic Development (SED-CO).

Among the products exhibited is an affordable audio-visual capturing system on the PS/2 (Personal System/2). The system consists of two hardware adaptors and a software programme. Its applications include presentations especially in the educational field. Shots from a video tape can be combined with sampled sounds in order to give the desired effects.

The exhibit, which will continue until this evening, also has a section for printers featuring the latest Brother printers with their LCD screens through which the

printer can be programmed replacing the usual DIP box. Regular laser and colour printers, in addition to Letter Quality (LQ) models in an affordable price range, were also on show.

Another corner featured plotters and computer-aided design software and hardware for engineers. Also on the display was an Optical mark reader which is a device used in the reading of statistical questionnaires and in correcting answer sheets. The machine's work involves sending a kind of radiation against a paper document and then using the radiation to determine its content.

CEB displayed software systems written by Jordanian programmers covering a wide range of business applications of computers, a new banking system offering "a branch solution" was presented in addition to hospitals automation system for handling medical records and other administrative systems.

A comprehensive Arabisation system was presented by SEDCO. The system, which is completely developed and made in Jordan offers Arabisation solutions for the monitor, the printer as well as for the computer itself. The system is currently being exported to other Arab countries and is continuously under development.

'UnderAge' and over-active

By Khaldoon Tabaza
Special to The Star

THE STORY of UnderAge goes back to 1987 when friendship and shared interest in music brought together the four school mates, Nassim Majdalaw, Wael Milbes, Ayman Al-Saket and Ghassan Wahbeh, who later formed UnderAge. "Ayman had a keyboard, so we started hanging around in his place and having fun, and we started to discover some hidden talents which we needed to express," says Nassim.

At the beginning, the group was interested only in having fun. "It was a nice idea to have young people doing something together and having fun," recalls Ayman. Later on, however, the band took their ideas and songs seriously, a fact that is clearly noticeable in their first song, 'Little Angel'.

The lyrics for 'Little Angel' were written by Wael Milbes, a founding member of the group who used to handle the lyrics but later quit because "his lyrics were very poetic and weren't easily sung" says Ayman who composed the song with Ghassan, Nassim did the vocals.

"Little Angel" is based on Charles Dickens' book 'Match Seller.' It talks about a girl who sells matches in the snow on a very cold Christmas eve. She doesn't have any money or anyone to turn to. Finally, she dies all alone in the cold. "We wanted our first song to express human suffering. It's quite a general idea, but we used Dickens' story to express it," explains Wael.

In recording their songs, UnderAge always try to be creative and avoid repetition and imitation. "We try to look at new horizons, and when we go to the studio we forget who we really are, and we try to go beyond the music," says Nassim.

The musical life of UnderAge goes into two parts, as the group members state. The first era ends with the Children International Summer Villages (CISV) camp song by which they completed their first L.P., 'Running out of time' and the second era starts with 'Just for a Friend Like You.' "In the first part, almost all the songs are alike and contain no creativity. But from 'Just for a Friend Like You' and onwards you can find creative words, musical instruments, by which we tried to create a new image for the group," states Wael.

"I think that when we recorded the first album we were only children with little experience in life so we wrote about simple things, anything that we could find in front of us. And as the album's name indicates, we didn't have much time to do things. After that I went to England and Nassim went to the United States for studying and when we made a reunion for our second L.P. everybody was much more mature. So there is a big difference between the first and the second album," says Ayman.

Besides 'Little Angel', the group's first album contains a song called 'Charming', through which Nassim believes he has expressed himself. "It is a rebel-



Ghassan Wahbeh, Nassim Majdalaw, Ayman Al-Saket

lious song and I think that it shows who I really am," he says.

Near the completion of their first album, the group members thought that they wouldn't be together again since everyone was going in different directions to complete their studies. So, they expressed their feelings through a song called 'I don't Want to Say Goodbye', which was written and composed by Ayman. "We felt that we were splitting up and it was a very sensitive issue for us," Ayman remembers.

The last song on the group's first album, 'Another Dream; the Sky is the Limit', was a production for the song of the Children International Summer Villages (CISV) camp in Germany made by Ayman after he attended the camp. "I had such a brilliant time at the camp and I wanted to give them something in return. So I did the song and sent it to CISV Newcastle and in return they sent me a letter thanking me for producing their song," he says.

The group's second album starts with 'Just for a Friend Like You' which was written and sung by Ghassan. "In this song I tried to say thank you to all my friends," says Ghassan.

'I Still Believe', the second song on the L.P., was much more complicated than the first one. Ayman completely handled the work in this one. "The song is about honesty in relationships. It tells the story of a boy who loves a girl whose love he later questions. "If you love me show it, and if you don't then please say it because my heart will break but I'll get over it," go the lyrics of the song.

"First I wrote a draft for the story and then I converted it into lyrics and tried to find a way in doing the music in order to make it as sentimental as possible and I choose the instruments in order to make it as gloomy as possible," he says.

The first two songs were completely different in style since each of them was a one-man work for Ayman with his electronic style and Ghassan with his classical style. The rest of the songs on the album combined the efforts of both of them, in addition to Nassim's "to give one style which will characterise the band," as Ghassan explains.

Those songs, by which UnderAge reached its prime are 'Another Dream', which is a dancing tune and two other songs, 'Stone Kids' and 'Show the World You

Care,' in which the maturity of the band is very clear.

"In 'Stone Kids', we meant to generalise the conditions of stone kids everywhere and not only in Palestine. We are talking about six and seven year old kids suffering from the miseries of war. Children are suffering everywhere. They suffered in the past, now, and they are going to suffer in the future if we don't do something about it," Ayman says.

The last song for the group, 'Show the World You Care', is a song about Greenpeace. "I think that the earth is in great danger and if we won't do anything about it then there will be very bad results," warns Ayman.

Talking about the problems that they are facing, UnderAge seem to have a point that they would like to emphasise. "I think that Radio Jordan is trying to be very helpful and help new groups in Jordan," says Wael. However, the group still has a message to DJs on the radio.

"We don't really hear our songs a lot on the radio now. I mean twice a week is not much, we are a new band and we demand that our songs be played more often on the radio," emphasises Nassim.

"If we don't ask for our songs to be played, I don't think that Radio Jordan will play them," says Ayman.

As for their future projects, the band intends to try different styles, which may include Reggae and House Music until they reach the one which suits them best. Besides, the group is willing to have their first live concert real soon.

"The proceeds from the concert will go to charity and we will be getting a big video screen behind us in the concert in addition to a 500 watt sound system. It will be really big," says Ghassan.

"I think that 'music is the food of love', quoting Shakespeare, is very important to promote Jordanian English music and I think that if English music will ever blossom in the Middle East, it will be here in Jordan," says Ayman.

"No matter how much we grow, we're always going to be young in our hearts because growing up doesn't mean losing up having fun. It means taking more responsibilities," says Nassim joyously as my tape recorder reaches the end.



King: Arab summit could be our last hope
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The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Amman, 9-15 August 1990

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On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to The Throne

The Star

conveys its heartiest congratulations to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to The Throne

ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

its felicitations and most cordial wishes

AMMAN (Star)—Clad in native folkloric clothing, 105 children from seven Arab countries Tuesday filled the auditorium of the Royal Cultural Centre for the opening ceremony of the 10th annual Arab Children Conference.

The children listened to speeches by the Minister of Education Dr Mohammad Hamdan, the Director of the Nour Al-Husseini Foundation Mrs In'am Mufti, and two children participating in the conference which aims to promote cultural understanding among Arab children of various countries in the Arab world.

"This conference helps us make friendships with Arab children and provides us with the opportunity to learn about children of other countries. It's also

Arab children meet in Amman

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday receive at Al Nadwa Palace Arab children participating at the 10th Arab Children Conference



a lot of fun," said 18 year old Wail Khamra, a Jordanian who also attended the 1986 convention.

"The meeting will help create harmony among all Arab countries and should be helpful to future relations between Arab countries because the relationship between children affects the fate of their countries," explained Rula Al-Ghool, a 13-year-old Palestinian who hopes to inform other children about the Palestinian uprising.

Her Majesty Queen Noor also attended and presented certificates and gifts of appreciation to individuals who have devoted three to five years service in organising the conference held each year in Amman. The children and the programme coordinators were later received at

Al Nadwa Palace by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

The opening ceremony also featured a reading from the Holy Koran by a young man from Sudan, a mini-orchestra performance, and a short film comprised of clips from previous conferences. This year's meeting is special because it is actually a reunion for past participants in the programme.

The seven Arab countries represented at this year's meeting include Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Tunis, Egypt, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. During their five-day stay in the country, the children will visit Mufrat, Zorqa, King Abdullah Mosque and various other sites. They will also spend a day with a Jordanian family.

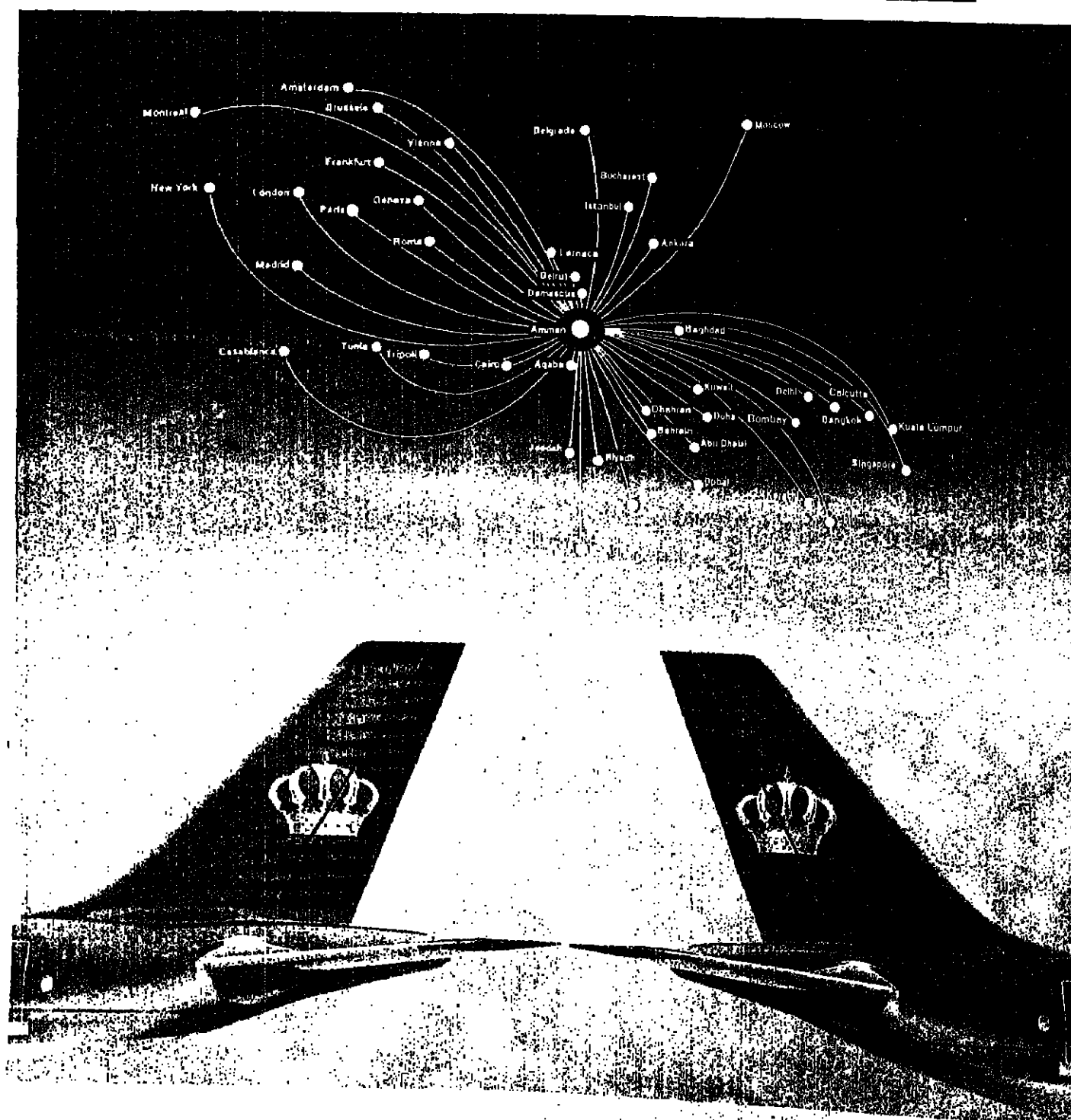
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ROYAL JORDANIAN



2 THE STAR

On the record

● All meetings of the auxiliary committees of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) have been postponed until further notice due to the current state of affairs in the Arab Gulf, sources close to the ACC general secretary told The Star.

● The cabinet is considering the possibility of exempting foreign sports delegations visiting the country from the JD 15 airport tax.

● Jordanian officials will Friday, 10 August, deliver messages from His Majesty King Hussein to a number of Arab leaders, informed sources said Wednesday.

● UNRWA Community Centres will Tuesday, 14 August, organise a charity bazaar at the Baga Centre on the occasion of the opening of Waqqas centre.

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9 AUGUST 1990

Shockwaves of the Kuwait invasion hit world capitals Gulf crisis could lead to open US-Iraqi hostilities

IN ONE week's time Iraq's President Saddam Hussein has changed the rules of the game in one of the world's most strategic and volatile regions. By storming into neighbouring Kuwait last Thursday, deposing the emir and the ruling family and setting up an interim administration loyal to Baghdad, President Hussein has, in the eyes of Washington and its industrial allies, committed an unforgivable sin for which not only he but the whole region must pay the price.

Less than a week since Thursday's invasion and instead of retracting, Baghdad delivered another bombshell by declaring complete unity between Iraq and Kuwait at the request of the Kuwaiti government. "The part has joined the whole," said Baghdad Radio on Wednesday. President Hussein was not showing any signs of backing up after President George Bush's announcement only a few hours before the Iraqi declaration that American military aircraft and thousands of servicemen will be rushed to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend the Saudis against a possible Iraqi invasion. By Wednesday evening news agencies were confirming the first squadrons of American jet fighters had landed in Saudi airbases. Earlier the United States and Britain, which will also send troops, advised their subjects in Saudi Arabia's oil-rich Eastern Province to get out as soon as possible.

By Wednesday there were no signs of a breakthrough in last minute Arab attempts to defuse the crisis. Egypt's President Mubarak called on President Hussein to withdraw his forces from Kuwait and get them replaced by multinational Arab peace keeping forces. In a press conference he held on Wednesday, the Egyptian president denied earlier reports that Egypt had agreed to join the American forces to be stationed in Saudi Arabia. But he said his country will respond to such a call if it was made by the Saudis and the forces were exclusively Arab.

President Mubarak warned President Hussein that a pre-emptive military strike could be dealt to Iraq from many directions. He said he saw a bleak future for the Arab nation. He called for the convening of an emergency Arab summit in less than 24 hours. Joining President Mubarak in his call was Syria's President Assad who formally requested for an emergency summit to take place.

Mubarak's words of warning do not seem to have shaken the Iraqis. In a radio statement by the revolutionary council, Iraq repeated its promise to retaliate ruthlessly against any attempts to threaten Iraq and promised that the "blood of martyrs will haunt the invaders."

America's retribution is yet to unravel. Worldwide sanctions against Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, coupled with a wide range of trade, financial and other embargoes, seem to be the tip of an iceberg. The West, it appears, is contemplating additional punitive measures to completely isolate Iraq, destabilise the Baghdad regime and set an example for other patriotic Arabs who dare challenge America's hegemony in the oil-rich Arab Gulf.

The most dangerous of these measures appears to be a military intervention aimed at forcing the Iraqis out of Kuwait and eventually check President Hussein's future ambitions in the Gulf. Already a flotilla of US, French, British and Soviet warships are swarming the Gulf's water while the US's Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean has been put on the alert.

The prospects of a US military intervention are yet unclear since, according to a number of military experts, it will entail a huge mobilisation of troops and could be extremely costly to the United States. Still this so-called option is real enough to warrant Iraqi precautions. Millions of city dwellers inside Iraq have been told to be ready to evacuate their cities at a moment's notice, while additional armed divisions are to be formed and the half million strong Iraqi popular army has been recreated.

The Iraqis have made it clear that they will not succumb to Western pressures to re-instate the deposed Kuwaiti ruler and his government. By mid-week it looked that Arab mediation efforts to settle the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute have come to a dead end. The last initiative was launched jointly by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. The latter visited Alexandria, where Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was staying, Baghdad and Jeddah. And although details of the Libyan-Palestinian initiative were not disclosed, by Tuesday it appeared that Mr Arafat had failed to get Saudi Arabia's King Fahd's blessing for the plan.

On Friday last week, His Majesty King Hussein appeared to have made headway with efforts to convene a mini summit in Jeddah on Sunday. The summit would have involved Iraq's President Hussein, Egypt's President Mubarak in addition to King Fa-

had, King Hussein and Kuwait's Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. King Hussein announced the agreement of President Hussein to the Jeddah summit only hours before an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo denounced Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and called for its immediate withdrawal. Fourteen countries voted for the resolution while five countries, including Jordan, did not.

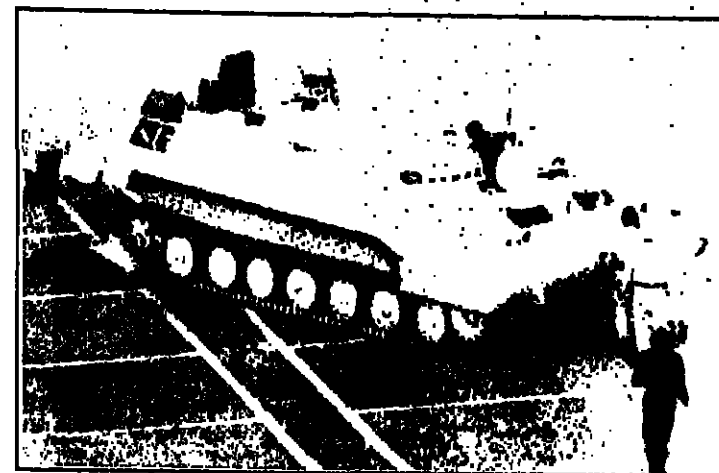
This development dealt a blow to Jordan's short-lived success. Iraq's response was a stern rejection of meeting or dealing with the deposed leader and later on Baghdad announced the formation of a Kuwaiti interim government, which had before confiscated the possessions of the ruling family. Later on, it looked as if the new administration in Kuwait City was well positioned while its decision to form a popular Arab army was met with the influx of over 100,000 Iraqi volunteers.

The Iraqis were by Tuesday entrenching themselves in Kuwait. Baghdad had on Tuesday announced that the new Kuwaiti government had changed the name of the Emirate of Kuwait to the republic of Kuwait.

And as a result of the UN Security Council's resolution to enforce sweeping sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait, President Hussein sent stern messages through his envoys in Europe and the United States, that Iraq will meet any attempt to intervene in Iraq's internal affairs with force and will retaliate against any such attempt.

Saudi Arabia, on the other

Iraqi troops in Salhya district of Kuwait take cover behind their armoured personnel carrier in the early days of the invasion



hand, was under US pressure to respond to UN sanctions by shutting down the Iraqi oil pipeline passing through Saudi territory. The other main Iraqi outlet, through Turkey, was partially turned off on Monday by Iraq, but was completely shut off by the Turkish government on Tuesday after the UN resolution.

Meanwhile President Hussein had made it clear that Iraq had no territorial ambitions in Saudi Arabia. Iraq said that there was no reason for the Saudis to shut down the Iraqi pipeline, but warned that any such action will not be accepted by Baghdad.

While Arab diplomatic efforts to contain and defuse the crisis seem to have fizzled away, there were reports that Baghdad and Washington were negotiating through President Mubarak.

Iraq has made it clear that no compromise involving the return of the Sabah family to Kuwait will be accepted. Observers believe that President Hussein will

try to calm Western fears regarding the flow of oil from the Gulf. The same observers say the oil embargo will hurt Western interests just as bad as it will the Iraqis. How long can the industrial world sustain a dramatic rise in oil prices is uncertain. But oil analysts (see related story) say an increase in the oil price over the \$30 per barrel mark will pave the way for a world recession and an oil crunch.

The man in the street has never felt so much hatred for the Americans — to him a symbol of a imperialist conspiracy directed towards his own existence and independence. At the same time not for a long time did an Arab leader enjoy so much popular support from Arabs everywhere. President Saddam Hussein is now a 20th century Saladin or Salahuddin, the Muslim leader who united the Arabs and repelled the last of the crusade forays into Palestine and the holy city of Jerusalem.

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THE STAR 3

سورة الفاتحة

In a press conference King Hussein says emergency Arab summit could be last chance to defuse Gulf crisis

By A Star Staff Writer

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has said that an emergency Arab summit will convene in Cairo today, Thursday, in an attempt that "could be the last chance" for resolving the Gulf crisis within an Arab context.

Addressing a press gathering at the Royal Hashemite Court on Wednesday evening, King Hussein did not confirm whether Iraq and Kuwait would attend the summit and who would represent Kuwait in the meeting.

In response to a question on whether Jordan will abide by the United Nations Security Council resolution which calls on all members to enforce a sweeping embargo on Iraq, King Hussein said that the Jordanian government is now studying how the resolution will be physically adopted.

"Jordan is a member of the United Nations and understands fully its obligations under the (UN) charter. The government of Jordan is studying how it will physically adopt the resolution," the King told members of the foreign, Arab and Jordanian press.

King Hussein said that he was concerned with the absence of Arab efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis within the Arab family. He said that an escalation of actions and reactions could lead "us to the verge of disaster" that will affect all countries in the region



King Hussein addressing the press conference

and maybe the world as a whole.

King Hussein said that Jordan is committed to the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force "and refuses to recognise any changes that are brought about by an external action. We still recognise the emiri regime in Kuwait ... and the system of government there," the King said.

Asked if Jordan is opposed to sending American troops to Saudi Arabia the King said that "Saudi Arabia is a sovereign state and can exercise its right in seeking any kind of assistance that it believes it is in need of." However, he said that "we in the Arab world had a duty to deal with our problems as rapidly as possible and in a manner that is adequate to any challenge we face."

British citizen praises Iraqi treatment of foreigners

Amman (Star) - A British businessman returning from Iraq has said he was well treated by the Iraqis and that he does not suspect foreigners currently in Baghdad to be prevented from leaving the country. Mr Brian Hume, who crossed into Jordan on Tuesday by taxi, said he was "amazed" at the Iraqi hospitality. He was on a seven-day visit to the Iraqi capital and was planning to continue to Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion took place.

"Life in Baghdad is very normal," said Mr Hume in a telephone interview with The Star. "I was allowed to visit Irbil in the north of the country and since it was my first visit I was very impressed with the country."

Mr Hume said he saw good trading opportunities for him in Iraq. Asked what effects would the United Nations sanctions on Iraq have on his business, Mr Hume said "I can't say right now. I guess I will have to wait and see."

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait took place on Mr Hume's second day in Baghdad. He said he did not know of any foreign, especially British, citizens taken by the Iraqis from Kuwait to Baghdad.

Crossing the border was no problem for the English businessman, who was accompanied by a Jordanian friend. "The Iraqis asked if our embassy in Baghdad knew of our departure and I showed them my valid passport and visas and they let me through," said Hume. He said he did not understand why the media was making so much fuss over treatment of foreigners in Iraq.

But Mr Hume said he always follows a golden rule whenever travelling in the Middle East and this is "never discuss politics or religion."

UJ students demonstrate in support of Iraq

AMMAN (Star) - An estimated 750 students marched through the University of Jordan (UJ) Wednesday expressing support for Iraq and its president Saddam Hussein, and condemning Saudi Arabia for allowing US troops into its territories.

Iraqi students accompanied by Jordanian students representing various political trends started the march 1 p.m. and were later joined by other students, as they marched through the main streets

of the university.

The demonstrators carried pictures of His Majesty King Hussein and Saddam Hussein alongside Jordanian and Iraqi flags. The students chanted slogans expressing the need for Arab unity and the will to volunteer in the Iraqi army to defend Arab land against foreign aggression. "Death over humiliation," read one of the banners. The demonstration lasted for two hours.

A Jordanian expatriate in Kuwait reacts to Iraqi Invasion

By Charlotte Hale
Star Staff Writer

"I ALWAYS listen to the news at 7 am. On the day of the invasion, I remember hearing that Iraq was getting close to Kuwait, near the borders, but nothing was said about an actual invasion," remembers Afas Alami, a Jordanian who works as a librarian in Salmiya, Kuwait.

"I was supposed to pick up my husband at the airport at 9:30 that morning. He was coming to Jordan from Kuwait for a visit. A few minutes later the telephone rang. As soon as I realized it was him, I knew that Iraq had invaded Kuwait," she says.

Afas, whose husband works in the oil industry, has lived in Kuwait since 1968. Like many Jordanian expatriates who work in the Gulf states, she returned in June to the moderate temperatures of Jordan for her summer vacation. However, she awoke to a hot crisis last Thursday, finding that her home away from home had been invaded by the Iraqi army because of disputes over oil production and pricing.

Sitting in the living room of her apartment in Amman, the 44-year old mother of two children had sensed that "something was boiling" in Kuwait over the past few years. Press editorials and discontent among some Kuwaitis who unhappy with the representation in a parliament that was 40 per cent government-appointed contributed to the pressurized atmosphere.

The couple purchased their

apartment in Amman's Gardens area in 1985 because they realised that Mr Alami, a technical worker, stood the possibility of losing his job because of the country's efforts to "Kuwaitise" the oil industry.

"But I never thought an invasion would happen. I was surprised," insists the self-described moderate who believes in the power of negotiations.

Though her husband intended to come to Jordan for his three-week vacation, he has now decided to stay in Kuwait to see how the situation develops. He also thinks he is needed at his job. He went to work on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with little interference, encountering a minimal number of identity checkpoints during the 30-minute drive. He reports that the Iraqi army has not incited trouble and that he is being treated very well, though he had no idea if Kuwaiti nationals were experiencing harassment.

Afas is still unsure if her husband will be able to keep his job in Kuwait. "As long as the Kuwaitis are out, he will probably stay, but if the Kuwaitis come back, he might have to leave his job. It depends on who stays in the country," she says.

Despite the uncertainty, Afas stresses that she prefers Arab unity to occupation and wishes that the the Arab world would plan towards unity without the use of force.

However, Afas describes Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as an individual whom "people seem



Kuwaitis protest the Iraqi invasion of their country this week

to like." She observes that he seems to be a logical person who plans well and who perhaps has the power to help create a sense of unity among Arabs.

"I don't necessarily mean political unity, but the conflict might encourage the Arab people to take a unified stand against what's going on," she notes.

Afas wishes that the conflict between Kuwait and Iraq could have been solved by negotiations, but speculated that there were probably legitimate reasons for the breaking down of talks.

"President Hussein was forced to do something he had to do," she adds.

If forced to leave Kuwait, Afas and her family will relocate to

Jordan permanently. Her husband has always worked in the oil industry, so she assumes that he would try to find a related job that would enable him to use his chemistry degree. Jordan's current employment crunch concerns her, but she is not extremely worried because her extended family will help if they get into a financial crunch. However, if the job search extended past a few months, her anxiety would grow.

Afas does not fear that her children's education will be affected by the unstable situation. With a 20-year-old daughter attending her alma mater the American University in Cairo and a 16-year-old son considering the same university for September entrance, Afas explains that she has put enough money aside to ensure that their education is not threatened. "They might have to go first semester and skip the second or the other way around, but this would be a temporary situation," she adds.

According to newspaper reports, many Jordanians feel the rich Kuwaitis got what they deserved after years of puppeteering to Western interests while placing less emphasis on the Palestinian conflict. Afas, however, feels sorry for her Kuwaiti friends.

Having been born and raised in Jerusalem, she sympathizes with the Kuwaitis who are now fleeing their country in a panic.

"I don't want to see Kuwait destroyed because I think that it was developing nicely," Afas explains. "However, I also don't want foreign intervention."

Afas is scared to think about the consequences of continued threats from the Western powers.

She calls the Iraqi occupation a limited problem that could potentially become a universal one that would definitely affect Jordan and perhaps push the world towards war.

"I don't understand why everyone has moved so quickly, so strongly against Iraq and President Hussein. No one has given him time to act. And he is supposedly starting to pull out."

Afas who views the current media coverage with scepticism, "I'm not saying that the invasion is right, but why didn't the United States take the same measures against Israel (when it invaded the West Bank and Gaza Strip)?"

Afas says that the decision to support a new government should be left up to the Kuwaitis alone. Based on her 22 years of living in the country, she senses that most Kuwaitis support change, though not an extreme one. "I hate to see others interfere in my government affairs, so I don't want to interfere in theirs," adds Afas who hopes to return to Kuwait.

"I am worried, very worried. The 1967 war was a hard experience, not being able to return to Jerusalem after finishing my studies in Cairo. I would have to go through that again. Losing everything and starting over again isn't easy."

World Bank expert Oil crisis likely to cause world economic recession

By a Star Staff Writer

SAUDI ARABIA will not be able to compensate for the oil shortages from which the world will suffer as a result of the embargo which was enforced on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil exports on Tuesday 6 August, according to a London-based oil expert.

Saudi Arabia will need to invest \$15 billion over a period of six years in order to raise its production capacity from the current 5.2 million barrels per day (bpd) to the 10 million bpd capacity of 1979 and 1980.

Dr Mamdouh Salamah, a World Bank consultant, said in a telephone interview with The Star. "No one country can make up for the oil shortage that will result from boycotting Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil production of 4.7 million bpd," Dr Salamah said.

It is not easy to immediately replace 4.7 million barrels of daily production of oil," he said. If Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil is not allowed to be pumped out to the world market, the only way to reach the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) current oil production of 22.5 million bpd would be for all OPEC members to increase their production quota.

This, however, will not be easy for a combination of technical and political factors. Dr Salamah said the extra production facilities of OPEC members are much less efficient than they used to be in the eighties and many OPEC countries would be "hesitant to break their Geneva agreement on production ceiling or to antagonise Iraq."

Dr Salamah said that OPEC countries were thinking of embarking on a \$60 billion project to improve their production facilities even before the eruption of the Gulf crisis in order to meet an anticipated increase in oil demand. The project, he

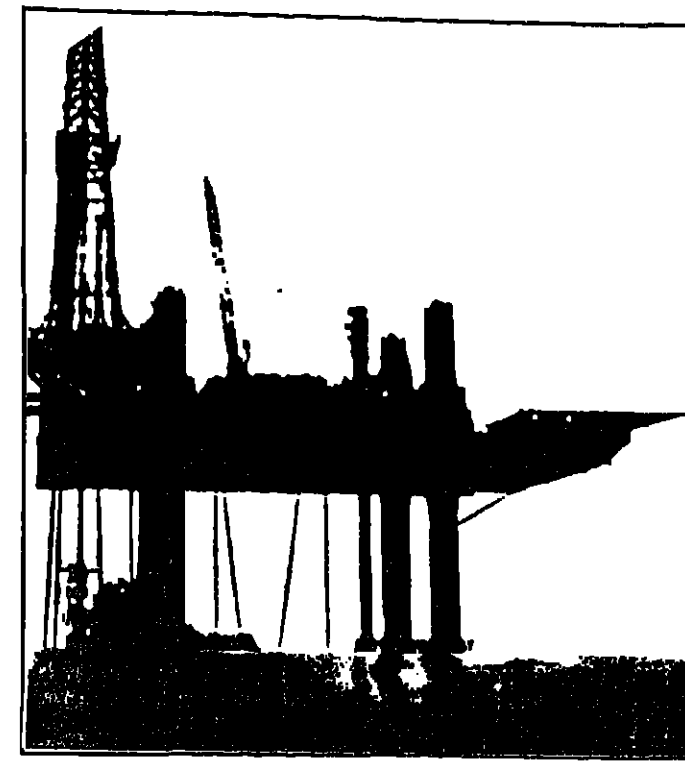
said, would aim at increasing OPEC production to 30 million bpd in order to meet the anticipated near future demand of 27 million bpd.

Non-OPEC oil producing countries would try to make up for the oil shortages but their extra production will not compensate for the shortages that an embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil would produce, according to Dr Salamah. He said that Mexico already produces 1.27 million bpd and this rate is not likely to be maintained due to domestic problems while the North Sea production is declining. Britain he said can produce 2 million bpd but it needs 1.7 million barrels to meet its domestic needs.

The OPEC countries could, however, add extra 3 million bpd and non-OPEC producers like Mexico and the UK's North Sea could produce extra 500,000 bpd, said Dr Salamah.

The London-based economist expected oil prices to reach \$30 per barrel as a result of the blockade that was imposed on Iraq but said that "the sky would be the limit if there was a foreign military intervention" in the Gulf and oil prices could easily reach \$40 per barrel.

And while the economies of



"The sky would be the limit if there was a foreign military intervention" in the Gulf and oil prices could easily reach \$40 per barrel.

There will be a 2 per cent inflation in the major industrialised economies and a 1 to 1.5 per cent decline in the world economic growth if oil prices reach \$40 per barrel.

the United States and Japan could easily absorb an increase to \$25 per barrel of oil prices, world economies will be strongly affected if the prices exceed that figure.

If oil prices reach \$30 per barrel, a half per cent decline in the global economic growth will be registered and there will be between half to one per cent inflation as well as a slight increase in the interest rates, according to Dr Salamah. Also he said that a \$30 per barrel price could add

"No one country can make up for the oil shortage that will result from boycotting Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil production of 4.7 million bpd."

1.5 per cent decline in the world economic growth if oil prices reach \$40 per barrel.

The US economy, which is already showing signs of slow growth, will be slowly pushed towards recession if oil prices register the record \$40 per barrel as the country imports 52 per cent of its oil consumption, said Dr Salamah. He also pointed out that Japan will be vulnerable to any such increase as it imports almost 100 per cent of its oil needs.

Another immediate consequence of the Gulf crisis, according to Dr Salamah, is an increase in demand for the US dollar since oil is usually paid for in dollars. This, he said, will lead to the strengthening of the dollar and a stronger dollar, combined with higher oil prices, means that other major world currencies will fall against the US currency. "Major oil importers like Japan, France, and Germany will be paying out more yen, D-marks, and francs respectively and consequently their currencies will fall against the dollar," said Dr Salamah.

At any rate, Dr Salamah said that the \$25 per barrel reference price that Iraq was pushing to achieve before it invaded Kuwait would be the baseline in light of the new development in the region.

US agricultural exports to Iraq exceeded \$726 million in 1989

THE INTERTWINING of politics and trade can be a risky business; the consequences of trade disruptions with partners who are out of political favour can often be as injurious to the dispenser as it is to the recipient. Yet with tensions increasing between Baghdad and Washington, calls for sanctions are becoming a reality.

A quick glance at the trade figures for Iraq and the US reveals a significant relationship between the two countries. According to the US Department of Commerce, American exports to Iraq totalled some \$1.174 billion in 1989. By far the largest portion of these exports were agricultural commodities. The US exported over \$726 million worth of agricultural products to Iraq in 1989, comprising almost one-third of all Iraqi agricultural imports. While this figure reflects an \$82 million decrease from 1988, it is still quite a healthy amount and represents a major chunk of the Iraqi market. Trade between the two countries

has grown considerably since the United States and Iraq resumed diplomatic relations in November 1984.

The principal products exported to Iraq include wheat, rice, corn, poultry feeds, soybean meal, cotton, tobacco, sugar, tallow, dairy products and eggs.

The US Department of Agriculture figures for selected 1989 US agricultural exports to Iraq in terms of their dollar value are as follows: wheat and wheat products \$179.1 million; rice \$132.9 million; corn \$63.7 million; other feed grains \$10.6 million; feeds and fodders \$87.3 million; pulses \$15.1 million; soybean meal \$71.1 million; vegetable oils \$3.3 million; cotton and lint \$35.6 million; seeds \$6.1 million; dairy products \$15.6 million; blue-cured tobacco \$32.4 million; other tobacco \$3.6 million; hides and skins \$1.8 million; animal fats \$11.7 million; refined beer and cane sugar \$31.9 million; and beverages \$6.5 million.

On the American import side,

the US bought approximately \$2.408 billion worth of Iraqi exports in 1989. Oil accounted for about 98 per cent of this total. This left the US with a hefty \$1.235 billion trade deficit for the year with Iraq — a minor affair in an era of sizable US trade deficits. In the agricultural sector though, US farmers benefited from a \$723.7 million agricultural trade surplus last year; America bought only \$2.3 million worth of Iraqi agricultural products in 1989, consisting primarily of dates and licorice extract, up from \$1.6 million in 1988.

Figures available for 1990 indicate a continuation of the strong trading relationship between Iraq and the US, with figures slightly higher than the levels registered for the same period in 1989. From January to May 1990, the US exported \$634.9 million worth of goods to Iraq, up from \$539.8 million for the January to May period in 1989. During the same period, the US imported \$1,603.9 million worth of Iraqi goods in

1990, compared to \$954.1 million in 1989.

However, with calls in Washington for sanctions against Baghdad, many politicians are reluctant to consider politically-motivated sanctions against another country, not only because it often hurts the population of the country as opposed to the leaders making the political decisions, but also because it usually hurts the home country exporters at least as badly.

A notable feature of the relationship is the extent to which Iraq depends upon various credit arrangements for its imports. Iraq is a major beneficiary of various US credit programmes, export promotion programmes and export insurance programmes. The availability of credit is critical to Baghdad as Iraq is short of foreign exchange. Iraq's substantial external debt, which accumulated to enormous proportions during the Iran-Iraq war when Baghdad borrowed some \$20 billion from non-Arab sources and another

\$40 billion-\$50 billion from the Arab Gulf states, competes voraciously for the country's limited foreign exchange.

For fiscal year 1990, \$500 million worth of Commodity Credit Corporation credit guarantees were provided to Iraq. Under this programme, the US government guarantees payment by the foreign importers — in this case Iraq — to the US exporters. American exporters then, who might prefer another importer to Iraq, will not hesitate to sell since payment is guaranteed. More importantly, the loan guarantees enable Iraq to obtain bank financing over a longer period of time, easing demands on Baghdad's foreign exchange.

The release of further Commodity Credit Corporation guarantees has now been deferred, pending the outcome of an investigation begun in October 1989 into possible irregularities in the Export Credit Guarantee Programme.

Continued Page 9

THE STAR 5

Preserving the traditional look

By Hind-Lara Mango,
Special to The Star

ENTERING THE Jordan Design and Trade Centre is a delight to the eyes. A serene blue fitted carpet is reflected off glass cabinets and shelves containing hebron glass in different shapes, sizes and colours. Turquoise stones imbedded in silver bracelet, and necklace settings are elegantly showcased in these cabinets too.

Hazem Al-Zu'bi's ceramics and Hind Al-Tajer's rectangular stone lamps incorporated with pieces of traditional carpet are also on display. But the main attractions are bright carpets woven in the traditional Jordanian design. Matching cushions in Jordanian style, tote bags, and jewelry pouches highlight the centres wealth of the cross-stitch in bright red, orange, yellow and black.

All these items are made by local Jordanians with the main aim of using this wholesale showroom to encourage handicraft production in the country.

A study carried out in 1984 by Save The Children and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) indicated that improper market-

ing of local crafts had a direct effect on declining production.

With this problem in mind, The Noor Al Hussein Foundation set-up various projects in the Kingdom such as the Jordanian Design and Trade Centre and Bani Hamida Project to help preserve traditional craft techniques and to stimulate appreciation for them among Jordanian people.

Projects such as The Jordan Design and Trade Centre were established in 1988 and strive to help raise the standard of living for low income communities, particularly among women. These projects help develop women as wage earners and decision-makers. Workshops have already taken place to train both men and women in making traditional objects. The Jordan Design and Trade Centre will open its doors in September for training on its premises.

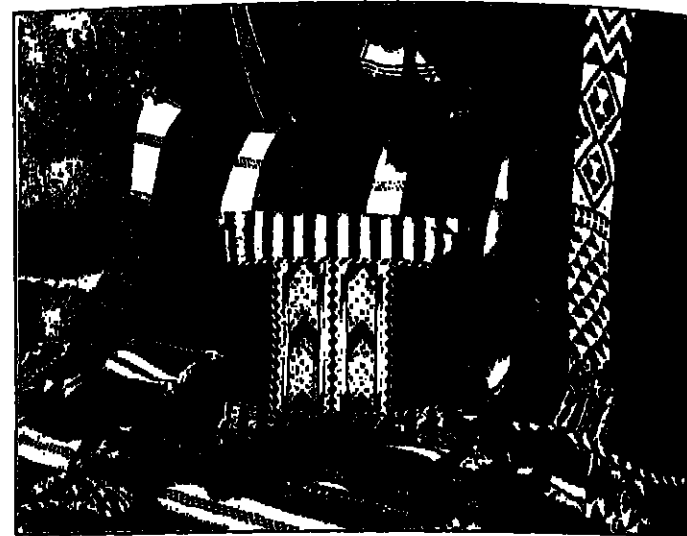
"The project encompasses four areas of implementation: The first is marketing which aims to develop diversified marketable lines with heavy emphasis on the adaptation of traditional designs to salable products," says Project Manager Fitna Kalaji. She adds that the second area involves

training entrepreneurs in small business management to encourage the growth of the retail and export rates. An export department that will seek to expand foreign markets is the third area and the fourth one will centre on the marketing of the finished products.

The centre is financed by the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation and USAID. A project director, David O'connor, was brought in to put the various components of this plan into motion. He has conceptualised the project in its current form and is training Kalaji, a local counterpart, to assume management of the whole project upon his departure.

"Foreign designers come to the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation where they are sent to us at the centre and to the Bani Hamida project," explains Kalaji. Designs come from old embroidered traditional dresses and the centre hopes to use local designers. Lina Lama once worked for the foundation, but she now has her own crafts shop independent of it. So far, no designers have been found to replace her.

The Jordan Design Centre's carpet designs are different from Bani Hamida's in terms of col-



Traditional carpets and other items produced by the centre

ours and material. The former uses less wool in its carpets making the rugs less expensive; the centre's 11 weavers from the Jerash Ladies Benevolent Society, each produce four carpets per month. Bani Hamida is known for its light pastel coloured carpets with virtually no design made by women from Bani Hamida. Surprisingly, Bani Hamida carpets are more popular with the local buyers, while the centre's creations are found more favourable abroad.

The centre works with Aid to Artisans, an international design

firm in the United States that assists in product development, representation in international trade shows, market research and continuous feed back on their products.

Says Kalaji, "Professionals with commercial expertise in diverse fields of handicrafts have visited Jordan for short term consultancies to work closely with producers in product development." These products are now marketed abroad to countries such as the United States, Northern Ireland, England, and the Gulf states.

Jordanian students in US explore new fields

By Charlotte Hale
Star Staff Writer

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-old Nawriz Al-Ali will go to the United States in September to study engineering at Pennsylvania State University-College Park. Like most Jordanians who pursue their post-secondary education in America, he hopes he will gain more experience studying abroad.

"The information is up-to-date and the American system of learning is better than that in Jordan," echoes Wael Kaibeh, another 17-year-old Jordanian who will study engineering at the University of Missouri in the fall.

Both Al-Ali and Kaibeh are strong examples of the typical Jordanian who goes to the United States for his post-secondary education — they received high marks in school and on the "tawjihi" and scored well on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Pamela Hussini, educational advisor at America-Mideast Educational

and Training Services (AMI-DEAST) explains that such students, who usually score around 600 out of a possible 800 on their math SAT, generally study medicine, dentistry or highly specialised fields of engineering like aerospace or biomedical engineering. The students are usually male and they attend highly competitive American universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University or Brown University.

Hussini categorised a second group of students as the "medium kids who have medium grades, medium test scores." She explained that these students initially attempt to pursue engineering degrees, but often end up studying computer science or business administration because they cannot get accepted into the engineering programmes.

According to the Institute of International Education, 5140 Jordanians went to the United States in 1988/89 to study in colleges and universities. AMI-DEAST-Jordan Director Janine El-Tal, however, estimates that the figure is slightly higher at

6000 to 7000 students.

"Ten years ago, everyone was going to be an engineer. About 95 per cent of students going to America were pursuing this field," noted El-Tal. "But around the mid-eighties, it was apparent that there was a surplus of engineers in Jordan. Many were not getting jobs and if they did, these jobs were usually low paying. This trend spurred students to go into more obscure fields of engineering, like biomedical and computer engineering."

El-Tal explains that students are now beginning to recognise this surplus in their home country and subsequently, more are beginning to specialise in social sciences, fine arts, and technical fields.

"Engineering, business, and computer science are still the most popular fields, but more and more people are going into the vocational fields, though the numbers are still small," El-Tal said.

Also small is the nominal drop in students who are going to study in the United States. El-

Tal said that in the last two years the number has dropped approximately 3.9 per cent. She credited the decreasing numbers to the devaluation of the dinar and the increasing cost of education in the United States.

"Under those circumstances, you'd think the drop would be even bigger. Education is extremely important," El-Tal noted. She also pointed out that the increasing number of high school graduates put additional pressure on Jordan's already overcrowded college and university classrooms, another factor which continues to pull students to study abroad.

"I had one mother say to me that her family would starve for education," remarked Hussini. "Compared to most third world countries, Jordanians are highly educated."

However, the country's abundance of "highly educated" individuals may actually be problematic, according to El-Tal. Military deferment, higher salaries, more challenging positions, and the introduction of a conscription fee of \$6,000 may create a climate that encourages Jordanian graduates of American universities to seek jobs outside the country, she said.

Though she could cite many examples, El-Tal noted that her brother-in-law received a mas-

ter's degree in environmental engineering from an American university and then returned to Jordan to search for work. After getting a job offer with a monthly salary of JD 150, he decided to return to the United States for a more lucrative offer.

"He simply couldn't live on his own or buy a car on that salary. After all his hard work, he felt he deserved a better standard of living," explained El-Tal.

However her colleague Pamela Hussini, an American married to a Palestinian disagrees. She believes that a majority of students will continue to return to Jordan if possible and will go to work in the Gulf state before returning to the United States.

"These people are very, very dedicated to their families," Hussini observed. "Those who do stay in America and get married are few. Most feel compelled to come back."

As for the future engineer, Nawriz Al-Ali, he said currently intends to return to Jordan upon completion of his studies despite Jordan's current figure of 20,000 jobless engineers. "I'm not really thinking of the unemployment factor at the moment," he said.

"I want to return to Jordan to find work," emphasised Wael Kaibeh, "but I'll go where I have to in order to find a job."

Child labour: The invisible victims

By Jan Vitek
Special to The Star

The mistreatment and exploitation of children throughout the world as a cheap and captive labour force will only be countered by ceaseless efforts to protect childhood, through public opinion, and pressure towards government legislation.

MANY ARE mistreated, most are exploited and there are uncounted legions of them: the working children in the world of 1990. But the ceaseless efforts to protect childhood are at long last beginning to bear some fruit, according to a new report by the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation (ILO).

A growing number of both industrialised and developing countries have, according to the report entitled "Still So Far To Go: Child Labour in the World Today," adopted "child labour legislation that on the whole is progressive and reasonably close to international standards."

It adds that "while many improvements remain to be made, a workable legal foundation has for the most part already been laid."

The report finds another major achievement in the "dramatic and steady decline of child labour in the mills and factories of mainstream industries." One reason for this is that the formal sector consists of enterprises easily encompassed within national labour legislation and regulations, and is therefore most effectively reached by systems of enforcement.

In addition, the technology of modern industrial production favours the use of skilled and semi-skilled adult manpower. Finally, rising incomes in many parts of the world have diminished parents' dependence on the economic contribution of their children.

But none of these salutary developments has as yet penetrated Third World agriculture, the urban informal sector and domestic service where child labour is most widespread.

The tillers of the land are generally far less protected by labour legislation than other workers. Their young helpers even less so. Often they must "work as hard as their parents in order to earn enough for family survival," the report says.

There is also increasing concern about the accident and disease rate among child agricultural workers. Controls on hazardous insecticides and herbicides are deficient and neither

children nor their parents receive instruction on how to use them safely. The same goes for machinery.

The study predicts that as the modernisation of world agriculture continues, the number of rural children vulnerable to exploitation may rise. More and more children take out a subsistence living in the rapidly expanding informal sector in cities, toiling in small enterprises for a pittance or as unpaid employees in family-owned businesses.

In brickyards they carry heavy loads that leave them injured, weakened and deformed. Child carpet weavers labour under con-

ditions that ruin their eyesight and lead to deformed limbs and backs. Young pencil makers work in hazardous sludge dust that condemns them to early disability and death from lung disease. Millions of boys and girls work the streets hawking merchandise, shinning shoes, washing automobiles or prostituting themselves.

However, "youngsters working as household domestic servants may be the most vulnerable and exploited children of all and the most difficult to protect," the report says. The vast majority are girls, frequently pre-adolescents who are com-

pletely dependent on their employers.

Sometimes impoverished parents place their child with relatives or acquaintances on the understanding that the employing family will support and educate the child. It may turn out as planned but quite often it does not. Many of these young servants are malnourished, are made to sleep on the kitchen floor and are not permitted to attend school. Sexual abuse is said to be common.

In other cases, the child has been hired out for wages, typically paid to parents. Or the child may be sold into bondage

for an advance sum. Some children are in this way unwittingly sold into forced prostitution.

"Child workers remain concentrated in agriculture, the urban informal sector and domestic services because they are most hidden from public scrutiny," the report says. Their existence is often kept under "a tight veil of secrecy and isolation," which conceals some of the worst abuses and exploitation of the defenceless victims.

"The essential first step in extending effective protection to these children must be the development of means to discover and reach them," the report says. It stresses that public pressure by concerned citizens is the prime mover of child labour reforms. "Virtually all countries enjoying effective enforcement of child labour laws owe at least part of the credit to such public interest involvement."

The report describes the role of governments, the media, voluntary groups, employers and unions to combat child labour particularly by promoting legislation and enforcement measures. It also outlines pragmatic new approaches, including the provision of education and training as well as the creation of protected income-earning opportunities for working children.

Poverty is the root cause of child labour. But it is "unacceptable that generations of children should be condemned to exploitation and abuse until poverty is abolished," the report argues. In fact, the experience in various developing countries shows that "children can be effectively protected even while they and their families are poor."

"To tolerate child labour is neither morally justifiable nor good social policy. It is morally indefensible because it countenances an evil that is avoidable. It is poor social policy because it abandons the most fundamental purpose of all human society, which is the protection and nurturing of its young, and because it sacrifices the qualities of future human resources by squandering them prematurely," the report concludes.



Child abuse remains a problem to be addressed in many countries of the world

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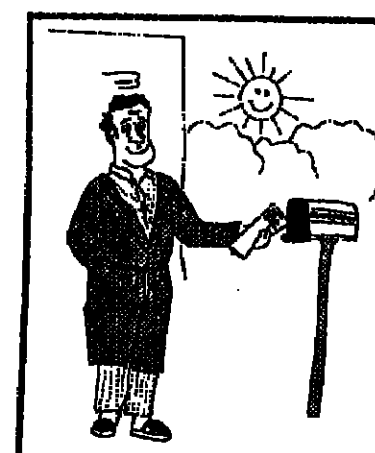
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Harnessing the wind power in north Jordan

By a Star Staff Writer

A GROUP of Danish companies specialising in wind energy are proposing to the government and the private sector the establishment of a JD 8 million wind park in the north of the country with the capacity to generate 100 megawatts of electric power.

The group, working under a newly formed consortium called JOR-DAN, is comprised of Danish companies specialising in wind power, mechanical engineering, contracting, and other related fields like the environment, waste recycling and water desalination.

Representing the groups Mr Ead Bawalsa, a Jordanian born Danish citizen, says JOR-DAN was formed a month ago to follow up on the provisions of a joint Jordanian-Danish official agreement which was signed in Copenhagen in April 1988. The co-operation agreement covers several sectors, including natural gas, electricity and renewable energy, as well as energy conservation and joint co-operation in pilot projects and studies related to them. The agreement also calls for setting up joint exhibitions, symposiums and conferences and to work together to find financing for joint projects.

Mr Bawalsa explains that JOR-DAN was created to introduce to Jordan Denmark's experience in renewable energy, especially wind energy. Denmark, he added, is a world leader in wind energy technology.

"Our proposal to set up the wind park came about only after the success of a pilot project in Jordan in 1987," notes Bawalsa who is export manager for JOR-DAN. A Danish company was commissioned the same year by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to install four wind turbines of 80 kw/h each in Irbid in the north of the country. The project was financed by JEA through a World Bank (WB) loan.

The planned wind park, the first of its kind in the region, will need about 1000 turbines each

capable of generating between 150 to 250 kw/h. Mr Bawalsa says the project could be divided into parts and given to more than one company "so as to create a kind of competition." But for it to take off, Mr Bawalsa asserts that this project should be run on a commercial basis where electricity generated could be sold to JEA at subsidised prices "since the current prices of electric current are not commercially viable to establish this project."

He noted that the subsidy idea has been tried in many countries of the world where companies running wind parks are subsidised by governments for a five-year period, for example, until they cover their costs. The wind park is comprised of individual turbines, fitted on towers that are approximately 35 metres high. Each turbine is made of wings (rotors), a generator and other gear.

A meeting was organised Wednesday by the Higher Council for Sciences and Technology which was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, JEA, Royal Scientific Society (RSC), JOR-DAN consortium of Danish companies, Jordan Trade Association (JTA), Arab Solar Industries (Hannan) and a local contractor. At a later stage, the Jordan Technology Group (JTG) might be involved, especially since Bawalsa suggests that "suitable local manufacturers of certain parts of the windmills will be subcontracted to make the towers, imports covers, foundations, connections to the national grid and installation of transformers." Jordanian manpower will also be hired to do the installations "under minimum foreign supervision."

Bawalsa notes that Jordan is ranked number one in the world in terms of its wind quality and thermal movement. For a wind turbine to generate power it needs a minimum wind speed of 3.5 metres per second. Unique wind movement is available almost continuously in the north of Jordan, especially in the Ras

Munif area. "According to the World Wind Atlas Jordan is ranked first in terms of constant westerly wind blowing from the Mediterranean Sea," says Bawalsa.

The Wednesday meeting was aimed at consolidating Jordanian-Danish co-operation in the area of renewable energy as stipulated in the 1988 bilateral agreement. The meeting was also aimed at raising financing for such co-operation especially since Danish companies have already expressed their willingness to partially finance a number of projects, including the wind park project, after settling the issue of wind energy pricing satisfactorily. Local investors have also expressed their desire to finance partially or wholly the wind park project according to Mr Bawalsa.

He says that a suggestion was made recently to a national company to work through a joint venture on building the wind park and then selling electricity to JEA by connecting the park's transformers directly to the national grid.

This will not be the first time that Danish companies have approached Jordan to introduce cheap but technologically superior sources of renewable energy. Besides the Irbid pilot project, a joint Jordanian-Danish proposal was made in 1987 to supply and install a solar/wind co-generation pilot project to supply space heating and electricity to Abu Nsir Housing district north of Amman. The proposal was not adopted by the Housing Corporation then, but the same Danish-Jordanian team plans to re-negotiate the proposal again.

The proposal includes providing technical know-how and parts of the equipment which can only be produced in Denmark. The rest will be produced locally. Mr Bawalsa notes that the Danish government may be willing to co-finance the project with the Jordanian government.

The project will aim at building one central district heating

unit. The unit will be comprised of a main collector of solar energy which will be used to heat water and pump it to a central station connected to one big boiler, which will only be used to control and maintain water temperature. The heated water will be distributed to households, from this central boiler.

"Our aim from this pilot project is to have this concept marketed jointly in the Middle East," explains Bawalsa.

In addition to Denmark's leading role in renewable energy technology, Copenhagen is becoming the recognised centre for environment protection techniques. Danish companies will seek to offer their expertise in the fields of industrial waste processing and recycling to Jordanian factories.

Mr Bawalsa says he is surprised by the huge amount of industrial waste created by Jordanian factories which is either dumped into springs or landfills. He adds that these wastes can be recycled and used again while other methods can be introduced to save energy consumption, increase productivity and raise the quality of products.

While he admits that the cost of such technologies is rather high, Mr Bawalsa suggests that many of these technologies can be bought through countertrade and barter deals. "This will also be an opportunity for Jordan to adjust its trade deficit with Denmark," says Bawalsa.

Jordanian imports from Denmark include dairy products, frozen meats, medicines and machinery. Denmark, notes Bawalsa, is interested in Jordanian phosphate, potash and fertilisers. But he comments that Denmark enforces a strict code of specifications on chemical fertilisers which Jordan will have to observe.

Bawalsa sees great areas of co-operation between Jordanian and Danish companies and investors in new areas like bio-gas technologies, improved seeds and nurseries, and energy.

Briefs

By Ahmad Shaker

● Gold prices have risen to JD 7.500 per gram in Amman an increase of 900 fils from JD 6.600 of ten days ago. The US dollar registered a decrease of six fils against the Jordan dinar.

● The Land Dept. revenues have increased during the past seven months reaching JD 14.357 million compared to JD 11.574 million for the same period last year. Revenues for the last two months were JD 300,000 more than last year (for the same period) reaching to more than JD 4.475 million.

● The government has decided to settle its contribution to the budget of the UN peace-keeping force in Cyprus. It also decided to contribute to the costs of holding the international conference on children which will be held in New York next month.

● The government has decided to pay JD 640,000 to the Intelsat organisation and another JD 475,000 to ArabSat for due cost for this year.

● The government has decided to amend a loan agreement with the World Bank of \$15 million which will be re-loaned to the Jordan Cities and Villages Bank. \$4 million will be deducted from the loan.

● The government has decided to waive all fees levied on trucks carrying freight between Iraq and Jordan estimated at JD 500. The decision will be effective from 1 September.

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Dollar:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST	1.5767/72	1.8792/97	1.8792/97	150.85/95	1.3270/80	5.2870/90

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

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Product offers from Jordanian exporters:
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2. Bath salts, facial mud mask, shampoo, face & body scrub (all based on minerals from the Dead Sea).
Contact: N.H. & Partners Company P.O. Box 2444

Amman-Jordan
Tel: 636399/625064
Fax: 618400
Tlx: 21884 ADNAR JO

3. Piping for building purposes (thermo-plastic, flexible chrome hose, reinforced hose, P.V.C. pipe, flexible woven metal hose, electropipe).
Contact: Plastic Pipe Industry "World of Plastic" P.O. Box 53 Amman Industrial Estate Sahab-Jordan Tel: 722041/722341 Fax: 722519 Tlx: 23163 TRADE JO

4. Ready to assemble furniture (laboratory, hospital, library, educational).
Contact: Specialized Furniture Establishment P.O. Box 927161 Amman-Jordan Tel: 609466/609467 Fax: 601238 Tlx: 21554 ARABCO JO

US agricultural exports to Iraq exceeded \$726 million in 1989

Continued from page 5

gramme (GSM-102). During this past April, the USDA sent a team of investigators to Baghdad, focusing on four main areas: "unusually high" commodity prices in GSM sales to Iraq during the period from 1987 to 1989; Iraqi requests to American exporters for "after sales services;" attempts by Iraq to impose certain taxes on GSM transactions; and questions regarding the arrival of commodities in Iraq. One of the questions, then, is whether or not excess funds were used as kickbacks. The USDA's probe was triggered by a Justice Department investigation of the Atlanta, Georgia branch of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, which allegedly made some \$2 billion worth of unauthorised and unreported loans to Iraq.

Baghdad also benefits from the \$200 million worth of insurance extended by the US-Export-Import Bank, which covers a wide range of goods. In essence, the bank agrees to cover the

loans extended to Iraq, up to \$200 million on a revolving basis, for purchases of American exports. Because the US exporters are protected against non-payment, more favourable financing can be arranged with the banking sources and thus the importers (Iraq) are offered more attractive terms than would otherwise be available. Again, this often translates into longer financing terms, easing Iraq's foreign exchange squeeze.

Under the Export Enhancement Programme (EEP) according to the US Department of Agriculture, over the last few years Iraq has purchased 70,000 metric tons (mt) of frozen poultry, 6,028 head of cattle, 178 million eggs, 300,000 mt of wheat flour, 2,486,500 mt of wheat, 250,000 mt of barley and 5,000 mt barley malt. The EEP is essentially a price subsidy programme, enabling US exporters to compete effectively with other suppliers (primarily European Community) who are subsidised and thus able to undercut market prices. By making up the difference be-



George Bush

tween the rival prices and US farmers' prices, American exporters are able to sell to Iraq at competitive prices and Baghdad is provided with a broader and more varied source of supply.

Iraq has also been the beneficiary of government-to-government sales of US dairy products. Over the last few years, surplus American products generated by US agricultural subsidisation programmes have been sold to Iraq at competitive world prices again broadening the supply of goods available to the Iraqis.

Since 1983, when Iraq began participation in the credit guar-

antee programmes, Baghdad has purchased more than \$4.5 billion worth from US agricultural products. While American agencies have lost no money because of the credit guarantees, it is clear that the US government has provided Baghdad with significantly useful assistance in its purchase of American exports. This is precisely the facet on which some members of both the US Senate and the House have begun to focus.

The recent amendment sponsored by Republican Senator Nancy L. Kassebaum of Kansas, is only one example of the kind of sentiment growing vis-a-vis Iraq. On 17 July, the Senate Banking Committee passed, by voice vote, Senator Kassebaum's amendment to the bill to reauthorise the Export Administration Act. (The Export Administration Act must be reauthorised every five years). The amendment would deny Iraq access to Commodity Credit Corporation credits, as well as Export-Import credit guarantees, and ban the export of "dual-use" items on the national security control list — goods that could have a possible military use in addition to their civilian uses.

— Ministry of Education, TN: 60/90, connecting of typewriters with two PCs systems, TD: JD 2, SB: 12/8/90.

— Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., TN: 19/90, construction of civil engineering works at Aqaba's Industrial Complex, TD: JD 25, SB: 19/8/90; TN: F20/90, insuring of electric equipment, TD: JD 25, SB: 14/8/90.

— Natural Resources Authority, TN: 95/90, retendering, supply of 400 gallons of diethanol amine and 600 gallons of corrosion inhibitor, TD: JD 5, BB: 5 per cent, SB: 19/8/90.

Mideast Report

Contacts and contracts

TN: Tender Number; TD: Price of Tender Documents; BB: Value of Bid Bond; DS: Deadline for Sale of Tender Documents; DD: Date Sale of Tender Documents Begins; SB: Deadline for Submission of Bids; BO: Date Bids are Opened.

— TN: 2/90, Jordan Petroleum Co., selling of ground storage tanks, TD: free, SB: 12/8/90.

— TN: T/6/90, Civil Aviation Authority, retendering, supply of tyres, TD: JD 2, BB: 5 per cent, SB: 14/8/90.

— The Higher Council for Sci-

ence and Technology, maintenance contract, BB: 10 per cent, SB: 14/8/90.

— Central Tenders Dept., TN: 24/90, construction of a diversion dam on Husban Valley, TD: JD 125, SB: 19/90.

— Meteorology Dept., TN: 1/90, construction of fence and septic tank, BB: 5 per cent, TD: JD 10, SB: 14/8/90.

— Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, installation of pipes to Umm Qais resthouse, TD: JD 10, BB: 10 per cent, SB: 12/8/90.

— Arab Potash Co., TN: 55/90, supply of 8 carbon steel pipes, fittings and valves, TD: JD 10, SB: 28/8/90.

— Telecommunications Dept., selling of used airconditioners, bid on 18/8/90.

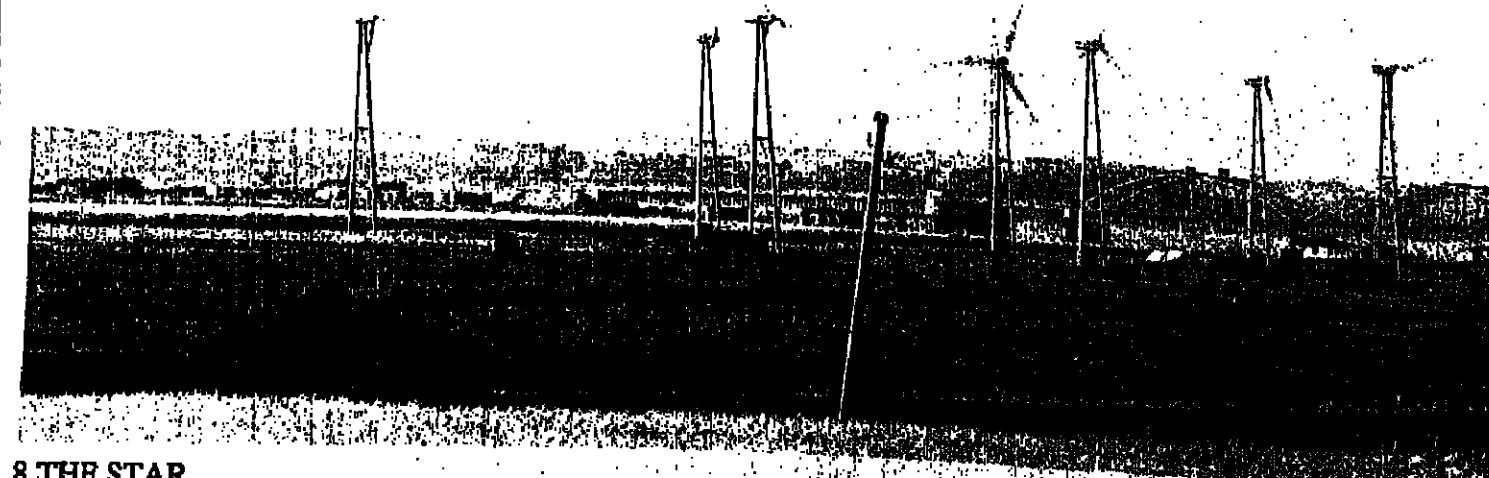
— Yarmouk University, TN: L19/90, printing of Yarmouk press newspaper, BB: 5 per cent, SB: 18/8/90.

— Water Authority, TN: L19/90, supply of 850 tonnes of chloride, TD: JD 100, SB: 25/8/90.

— Ministry of Education, TN: 60/90, connecting of typewriters with two PCs systems, TD: JD 2, SB: 12/8/90.

— Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., TN: 19/90, construction of civil engineering works at Aqaba's Industrial Complex, TD: JD 25, SB: 19/8/90; TN: F20/90, insuring of electric equipment, TD: JD 25, SB: 14/8/90.

— Natural Resources Authority, TN: 95/90, retendering, supply of 400 gallons of diethanol amine and 600 gallons of corrosion inhibitor, TD: JD 5, BB: 5 per cent, SB: 19/8/90.



Our Say...

Hectic times

THESE ARE hectic times indeed. The events of this past week have put a definite end to the status quo in the Middle East. The debacle of the Kuwaiti ruling family at the hands of the Arab Iraqi army had set a domino principle into action. In effect we are witnessing the beginning of the end of a long and humiliating era of servitude by Arab regimes to foreign powers. What started as a border and oil rights dispute between Iraq and Kuwait last week has ended in the physical removal of the Sabah oligarchy from this oil-rich Gulf state. The motives of the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein were not aimed at fulfilling a personal vendetta as the West would like to promote, but rather to throw away the shackles of this country's servility to outside powers.

Now that a fete accompli situation has been created, the industrialised world, particularly the United States, feels threatened by the fact that a free Arab leader now controls over 20 per cent of the world's oil reserves. We understand their fears, but they will find little sympathy here. There is no doubt that oil will continue to be the most strategic global commodity for many decades to come. In fact, oil remains the single most important factor that will determine the future of the Arab nation, even those Arabs who do not have it.

The United States will probably attempt to reverse this domino principle. But its foolish attempt to isolate Iraq, rally the support of its allies in the Middle East, intervene militarily in this region, will backfire, on the long run. If the United States ups the ante by attacking Iraq, a possibility which now seems extremely likely, it will not only entangle itself in a long and tiring war, but will inflict injuries to itself and its allies in the West.

But most importantly, the United States will succeed finally in bringing the Arab nation together. And for this reason we sense a wave of buried Arab anger about to be released and lashed out at any foreign intervention.

The US crusade in the Gulf is not different in substance from any imperialistic adventures the Gulf and the rest of the Arab world had known in the past. Washington's motives for massing its fleets and airlifting its troops are not to re-instate the deposed Kuwaiti ruler, nor are they aimed at punishing a country which had dared violate the UN Charter or international laws. No. The American cowboy campaign is simply an expression of their fear for losing what they believe is rightfully theirs—Arab oil.

It doesn't really matter if Kuwait was ruled by this family or that, so long as that country's oil policies were screened and approved by US policy makers in Washington. Saddam Hussein will not have this. This is basically what the bone of contention between Mr Bush and President Hussein is all about.

Now that the US, Britain and the rest of the NATO allies have made up their minds to punish the Iraqi leader, one has to legitimately ask why a double standard is allowed to be applied when it comes to the Arabs and their aspirations? Mrs Thatcher, a couple of days ago, condemned Iraq because it had breached the UN Charter and invaded a small neighbouring country. Mrs Thatcher could also have been talking of Israel or its ally across the Atlantic, the United States.

We are fed up with Western hypocrisy. We say this as we remind Mrs Thatcher and Mr Bush of their unholy alliance to back Israel's hostile acquisition of land by force, of Israel's bloody suppression of unnamed Palestinians and of Israel's invasion and occupation of South Lebanon, a small neighbour of Israel. We are reminded of Mr Baker's broken promises to the PLO leadership and of the numerous US vetoes of the Security Council resolutions condemning Israel's renegade actions in the region.

The United States showed a great deal of insensitivity to the aspirations of the Arabs. This insensitivity was coupled with numerous insults to every honest Arab effort to make peace with the enemy and bury the war hatchet.

The only party to blame for the present Middle East crisis is the United States because it had from the outset betrayed its self-proclaimed role as a honest broker in the Middle East. It supported aggression, looked the other way when cluster and napalm bombs were used to annihilate Arab children in Lebanon, and undermined all attempts to bring the Arabs together peacefully. Now not only the US, but the whole world could pay the price of a bloody war in the Gulf region.

For the Arab people, especially here in Jordan, the man in the street will not tolerate a foreign aggression on Iraq. As to the Arab leaders who chose to stand by and watch, it is up to their people, and history, to question their motives and judge them. This is a matter of existence for the Arab nation: To control their own destiny or to succumb to foreign domination of our future and resources. President Hussein did not choose his destiny. It chose him.

No easy victory

By Ayman Al-Safadi

PEOPLE ON the street are jubilant. For the first time in probably the living memory of many of them, an Arab leader emerges to dare say no to their number one enemy, the United States. People are aware of the devastating consequences of any military engagement between Iraq and the United States but all seem to be wholeheartedly for the support of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The bottom line is clear. Any foreign intervention in the Gulf would be viewed as an aggression against all Arabs and all Arab governments would eventually have to heed the peoples' uncompromising demand for a unified Arab stand against the United States and its allies—no matter what or how costly the price might be. After all, the old Arabic saying has it that a wound cannot cause a dead body any pain. Many of us believe that in their current state, the Arabs are no better than dead. Standing up to America could inject some life in the dry veins of Arab dignity.

The repercussions of an American military operation against Iraq in these indeed critical times are devastating not only to the warring parties and the Arab Gulf but also to the whole region. America knows that, but little does it care about the welfare of the region. All that America wants is the protection of its interests and the privileges that it has been granted in the region by those who have compromised their national interests for the price of protecting their shaky thrones.

It is impossible for anybody in the Arab world to believe that America is so disturbed by the fact that a "small, helpless state" was occupied by force that it mobilised its forces and is willing to risk shedding American blood to save it and restore justice on earth. Many of us have just to look home to understand the true nature of the United States. Israel has been occupying Arab lands in the West Bank and Gaza for more than 22 years, oppressing the Palestinian people and killing the Palestinian children. And all that America did about the situation was extend its support and killing machinery to its Zionist allies. Israel has, in disregard of all international conventions, invaded a "small and helpless state," Lebanon, and still occupies its land and America wouldn't allow the United Nations to even adopt a resolution sanctioning Israel, let alone implement such a decision.

American hypocritical nature is no secret to any Arab. We all know the true face of the United States and we all know that human rights go one way in American morality. Human rights and international conventions are always viewed within the context of American interests. Any action that serves the "super state" is justified and well-grounded but any action that seems to threaten the untouchable American interests should be fought by the whole world and even by those who might eventually turn out losers by supporting Washington.

The disturbing thing, however, is that some Arab regimes have succumbed to the pressure of their great master, disregarding their duties as Arabs, the aspiration of their people and the lessons of history. What those regimes that have allowed foreign powers to be stationed in Arab lands and facilitated the passage of American warships through Arab waters seem to have forgotten is that no matter

how strong the US support is to them these days, their future is in this region and their survival depends on their belonging to their people and to their culture.

Governments that go against the feelings and aspirations of their people cannot last for long even if they have all the advanced and destructive weaponry of Washington at their disposal. Eventually and inevitably, the tide of nationalism will overthrow the mightiest of dictators. The only powerful regime is that which derives its strength from its people and its adherence to its national interests. Clearly, none of the Arab puppet governments that have served the American interests on the expense of that of its people falls within that category.

From the very beginning of the Gulf crisis, it was obvious that the United States and its Western allies wanted to escalate the conflict so as to have a pretext to enter the region and topple the Iraqi leader who dared speak a language that they didn't expect from an Arab leader or country.

The Gulf conflict could have been solved within an Arab context had the Arabs been given the chance to deal with the problem. But such a solution wouldn't have accommodated the interests of the United States alone and hence it immediately stuck its nose in the affair. America interfered less than a week after Iraqi forces entered Kuwait and, with the help of some of its satellites in the Arab world, it declared Arab efforts to contain the crisis a failure. Couldn't the great "protector of democracy" in the world tolerate the fact that a small and helpless country was occupied by an invading power? Or is it that America couldn't waste a unique opportunity to try to bring down a regime that refused to join its servants in the region? I don't think we have to think hard to arrive at the right answer.

We all know that America would at the long run win the war with Iraq, but such a triumph will not be without its dear price. What America should know is that Iraq is no Panama and the Iraqi one-million strong army is not the few hundred troops fighting in Liberia. America will have no easy victory in a battle against Iraq. Any aggression against Iraq is an aggression against the millions of Arab citizens who will see in a war against America, its interests even in the countries whose official stand sided with the US, and its numerous embassies in the Arab world from the Nile to the Euphrates a dignified way of restoring a long lost pride of a nation.

America should think twice before embarking on any military operation in the Arab Gulf against Arab Iraq. It is not yet too late to spare this area a vicious war whose devastating consequences could well be beyond anybody's expectations. If America stays out of this internal Arab affair there is still hope that Arab diplomacy could come up with a solution that might, first of all, serve the interests of the Arab nation, and then the rest of the world.

But if America insists on its plan to escalate the conflict by militarily interfering in the conflict then we are up for an endless circle of violence that will encircle the whole world. And definitely, American soldiers who will survive a war with Iraq, which will be supported by at least all decent Arab citizens, will go home with a taste very different from that of an easy victory.

Halt in peace process?

The recent events in the Gulf region have brought Iraq's Saddam Hussein in direct confrontation with the United States over what the latter sees as its vital and strategic interests. As the two countries increase their stakes in a very dangerous game of nerves, the industrial world, the Arabs, Israel and others will be greatly affected by the final result of the Gulf showdown.

ROBERT HAZO, who wrote this article before last week's Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, contemplated the effects of President Hussein's confrontational policy with the West on the so-called peace process in the Middle East.



RECENTLY, DUE largely to the new strategy of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, a radical turning point may have been reached in the protracted Arab-Israeli conflict. That turning point consists of the revival of a strategy of military confrontation with Israel. That strategy, never fully abandoned, does not necessarily aim at war, but at dealing with Israel from a position of strength rather than weakness. Despite many and serious setbacks, the Palestinian spirit has never been defeated. Witness, for example, the fact that the Intifada, which is in its third year, has spread to Israel proper, and recently has received impressive public support in Jordan.

Until quite recently, however, the Arabs as a body have moved gradually and reluctantly toward the "peace process," making concession after concession because they saw no other option. Knowing that those who make the rules win the game, however, increasingly they feared the consequence of going along with an Israeli-American dominated peace process which requires them to negotiate from weakness. Many, therefore, had very little hope for a satisfactory outcome and felt even more embittered and humiliated because their acceptance of this course of action was by default.

Saddam Hussein's appeal is to Arab pride. For a variety of reasons, at least one of them of his own making, his timing was on the mark. Arab frustration seldom has been greater, nor resentment deeper. Suddenly and, for most of the Arabs, unexpectedly, President Hussein's defiant retaliatory threat gave them heart. His is a credible threat, coming from a source of actual and potential power. He has a battle-tested army of a million men, which he will undoubtedly shrink only at a pace that will allow their absorption into the work force.

Iraq has the elements of a robust economy, if developed wisely. It has an adequate cash flow, since Saddam Hussein has no intention of repaying Saudi Arabia and the Arab states of the Gulf the \$60 billion they provided

for Iraq's war with Iran.

Iraq also has already created a fledgling industrial base, including the beginning of military industry. Recently, Iraq launched a satellite into orbit, bolstering its claim to have a rocket with a range of 2,000 miles. Although Iraq certainly emerged deeply drained by its protracted conflict with Iran, in some basic respects it is much stronger than it was at the beginning of that conflict.

President Hussein was banking on that strength when he declared "...we will make the fire eat up half of Israel, if it tries to do anything against Iraq." He added, "We do not need an atomic bomb. We have the dual chemical. Whoever threatens us with the atomic bomb, we will annihilate with the dual chemical." The reference was to binary chemical weapons in which two benign components produce a deadly gas when combined.

US experts confirm that President Hussein's threat is no bluff. Both Iraq and Iran used chemical weapons during their war. It was fear that Iraq could mount chemical warheads on its existing missiles capable of reaching Tehran and other major cities that induced Iran to agree to cease-fire proposals previously accepted by Iraq. The Soviet Scud missile has a normal range of 200 miles. Altered with the help of French technicians, its range has been extended to about 600 miles with reasonable accuracy. A number of these missiles have been placed on Iraq's western border with Jordan, well within range of Israel's cities. Is-

raelis are worried about these missiles, and because they do not know how many more of what have come to be called "weapons of mass destruction" Iraq can deliver by aircraft and artillery.

President Hussein has prepared for a retaliatory thrust in other ways. In a development that has been widely noted in Israel, but not sufficiently emphasised in the United States, he has co-opted Jordan which now fears that a right-wing Israeli government may move rapidly and decisively to dump large numbers of Palestinians into Jordan and then move to expel Palestinians remaining in the occupied territories into Jordan, claiming that it has become the Palestinian state.

Iraqi aircraft, flying high over Jordan, are reported to have flown reconnaissance missions close to the Israeli reactor at Dimona.

It is possible now that Saddam Hussein deliberately set the stage for his grab at regional Arab primacy. He is supposed to have spoken out because he feared an Israeli strike similar to the one that destroyed the Osirak nuclear reactor in Baghdad in 1981. This explanation was triggered by the execution of a London-based journalist, Farzad Bazoft, as an Israeli spy, and was followed by British-US allegations that they had uncovered an Iraqi plot to smuggle electronic capacitors to be used as triggers for nuclear devices.

Could Iraq have done these things to set the stage for its thrust for Arab regional primacy? The Iraqi ambassador

to the United Nations pointed out on US television that the order for the capacitors (which he claimed were for industrial use) was sent to England by regular cable and not clandestinely. Might not they have been so ordered precisely because there was a desire that they be discovered?

Preoccupied with the war with Iran for eight years, little was heard from President Hussein regarding Israel. Yet, all this while he knew the Arab-Israeli conflict was the best vehicle to advance his ambition for leadership in the Arab world. With statements like "We will never give up the struggle for Palestine," he has taken an ambiguous rather than rejectionist stance which, nevertheless, is a very defiant line. He also went further than any other Arab leaders, including Arafat, on the matter of Soviet immigration when he said, "It is not enough for us to argue that immigrants must not be housed in Arab lands occupied since 1967. Immigrants, however they settle, represent added strength to Israeli society."

President Hussein has sent a very serious peace feeler to Rafsanjani to neutralise the Iranian front as part of his turning to the Arab world. He wants US Navy ships out of the Gulf, even though their introduction there, at a time when Iran had the upper hand, decisively signaled to Khomeini that the US would not permit him to win his war with Iraq and set in motion an Iranian search for face-saving terms upon which to bring the debilitating conflict to an end.

Saddam Hussein's appeal now is to anti-Americanism. He surely did not expect Egypt (which receives a grant of \$2.3 billion from the US annually) or Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states (who are dependent on the US for protection against Iranian imperialism) to agree to levy economic sanctions on the US. But he did get all attending to agree to a summary statement for the summit that condemned US support for Israeli policies of "aggression expansionism and terrorism."

Saddam Hussein has made an impressive start in advancing, for better or worse, a strategy of confrontation—a strategy with teeth—as a vehicle for his claim for as much primacy as possible among Arabs. His thrust, however, is deeply compromised by the hostility that exists between him and President Assad of Syria, who would not even attend the summit.

Despite all, not only the United States but Israel and, most importantly, the Arabs themselves take President Hussein's thrust quite seriously. He and his ideas have come a long way, particularly in the last two months, with the open defiance by the Shamir government of US efforts toward a negotiated peace. Saddam Hussein will go a longer way if the US suspends the peace process totally and if Israel continues its intransigent stalling. At that point, the Arab people (given the example of what populism has accomplished in Eastern Europe) may turn to him, or at least to the dream of military confrontation he personifies, and, as a result, away from the peace process and against the Arab leaders identified with it.

Robert Hazo is chairman of the Middle East Policy Association. He has lectured extensively on the Middle East both in the United States and abroad.

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BOOK
REVIEWReviewed by Andrew I.
Killgore

WHEN Odysseus, King of Ithaca, finally returned home from the Trojan War 3000 years ago, he was all but a stranger in his own land. Although he managed to reclaim his kingdom and preserve his family, much had changed in Ithaca during his absence. And Odysseus himself had changed.

Sis Levin, author of "Beirut Diary," and her husband, Jeremy (Jerry) Levin, Cable News Network chief correspondent in Beirut, had already started on an odyssey of their own before the dramatic events that triggered her book. Their odyssey began with the fact of their meeting and marrying.

The fates, and his career in television journalism, took Jerry, a liberal Jewish atheist, far from his native Michigan into Birm-

Beirut Diary: A Husband Held Hostage
and a Wife Determined to Set Him Free

ingham, Alabama. There he met Sis, a committed Christian of Deep South establishment background. Despite contrasting backgrounds and some family objections, Sis and Jerry were married, and their touching love story is a central theme of Beirut Diary.

The defining drama that changed their lives, however, was Jerry's assignment by Cable News Network to the Lebanese capital in January 1984. Barely six weeks later, in March, he was snatched by armed gunmen from a Beirut street. He spent the next 11 months blindfolded and chained to a radiator or wall in conditions of almost indescribable discomfort.

Constantly accused by his captors of being a spy, Jerry never stopped denying it. He knew if the kidnappers ever began to believe their fanciful accusation, he faced execution. Although constantly aware that he was in mor-

tal danger and might never see his family again, he never lost his iron determination to somehow escape from his terrible ordeal. And the moment an opportunity arose, he slipped out a second storey window and escaped, into circumstances of hair-raising danger.

Meanwhile Sis, despite agonizing worries over whether she could cope by herself, launched a determined campaign to free her husband. She faced opposition from Jerry's family, and from supporters of Israel who feared that her activism and focus on underlying Middle East issues might harm Israel's security. Sis stubbornly persisted in her belief, however, that talking about basic problems was the best course.

She gathered a ring of supporters, including her lawyer brother, distinguished educator/peace activist Landrum Bolling, and the Reverend Jesse Jackson.



Jeremy Levin

One bizarre twist was an abortive attempt to rescue Jerry from a Beirut house where he supposedly was being held. The rescue effort was successful, but not in freeing Jerry, who simply wasn't there. Instead two other hostages, American University in Beirut professor Frank Regier and French businessman Christian Joubert, were found in the home and freed.

Agonizing questions followed. Had Sis and her friends been tricked by people who only pretended to believe that Jerry was in that particular house? Was Jerry in Beirut at all? Had he been taken away to the Bekaa Valley? Was he still alive? With one or two notable exceptions, little good advice came from the State Department, which urged quiet diplomacy rather than activism.

Sis was not convinced that the Department's position was sound. Moreover, she was temperamentally unable to sit around doing nothing. So back to Beirut and at least two trips to Damascus and appointments with an apparently sympathetic Farouk Al-Sharaa, the Foreign Minister of Syria.

Then came Jerry's chance to escape. And whether or not his bonds were slightly loosened because of Sis' pleas to the Syrians for help remains ambiguous. Jerry did, however, break away. He crept, barefoot, through the night

away from his prison in an isolated house in the Bekaa Valley toward Syria. His feet pierced by thorns and with every dog within miles howling to signal an unfamiliar presence in the darkness, Jerry hid under a vehicle when he heard footsteps approaching. He was spotted by a patrolling Syrian soldier rather than his kidnappers. Suddenly he was no longer a miserable hostage under constant threat of serious injury or death, but rather a guest of the Syrian state, receiving all the warmth of traditional Arab hospitality, as the Syrians took him to Damascus and turned him over to the American ambassador there.

In addition to raising unanswerable questions surrounding Jerry's decision to risk his life escaping rather than remain a hostage, the book also touches on the matter of his religious faith. That he went through his own private Gethsemane as a prisoner is clear. What effect this had on the non-believing Jerry's private convictions is unclear. What is certain, however, is that he developed a special compassion for the sufferers he saw everywhere in the Middle East, even for his captors.

Nor is there ambiguity about this couple's stand on the Middle East since Jerry's release from captivity in 1985. Both Sis and Jerry have spoke out in ever possible forum for better relations between the US and all Middle East countries.

Improved relations with all implies, of course, that present American policies are producing sound relations with none. The Levins recognize this and state it clearly. As a result, crude efforts to intimidate them have been personally costly to both. For Sis and Jerry, however, who had already been through hell separately, such efforts to silence them together are doomed to failure. This illuminating, touching and deeply human account attests to their determination to speak up for truth, justice and compassion, and to spare others the ordeal they have endured.

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9 AUGUST 1990

Artist
delves into
political and
social issuesBy Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

CURRENTLY ON show at the Royal Cultural Centre is an exhibition of 72 paintings by Dr Ali Ghoul. The works vary in terms of theme and technique, but are arranged in a manner that creates a continuous flow of thought.

The first painting on display of shocking orange flowers in a vase on a bright blue table, gives the impression of a print done in a modern style. The white background is given just as much importance as its colourful foreground. Newspaper clippings are printed on the canvas, the result of employing water based paints and emulsion that absorb printing ink, discloses Ghoul. So, when the newspaper is pressed onto the painting, the page is automatically re-printed.

The artist introduced his show with this piece intentionally; it symbolises the 'news of the exhibit' he says.

However, the two neighbouring works differ completely, dealing with the Arabic letters 'Noun' and 'Ta'. These China inks are actually a part of my next exhibit which analyses the Arabic letters in a very academic way," explains Ghoul.

He displays these paintings in his current show because the letters' circular lines fit with his thematic use of thin, dynamic black lines throughout the exhibition. This style is evident in works ranging from the Arabic letters to a simple portrait of a young girl.

The overlapping and repetition of such strokes give a strong impression of the portrayed theme. In the three studies of 'The Nation', the artist tries to capture the concept of the homeland within glass frameworks using these lines.

For instance, one painting shows a champagne glass outlined in black in which the bubbles are trees under which figures are seen. Sinking into the liquid is a representation of Jerusalem with its Dome of the Rock. A bluish figure nearby is trying to get into the glass, and the sense of motion is further stressed by a flying swallow in



the foreground.

Ghoul explains that he tried to give the impression of the expatriate who wants to come back to his home, but is finding it difficult.

The problems of the Arab nation are rendered in a similar manner. In another painting of a Bedouin is trying to hold a square and heavy-looking glass containing representation of Petra and the Dome of the Rock done with spiky borders.

The lines are given depth through the thick and thin technique. One line starts off thick then ends up thin, depending on the amount of paint applied and the way the applicator is held. The colour black is not used for the conventional functions of shade and the positive and negative, but for defining boundaries.

An intentional buildup of tension is created through the arrangement of the paintings. The show begins with symbolic and rather light-hearted colours, then gradually gets involved in political and social themes. A breathing space, so to speak, is sparked off by pastel sketches of mountains and the personification of the four seasons.

Evidence of Ghoul's Italian training in architecture comes out in his depictions of the Intifada. "Architecture helped me in analysing space and relating it to certain periods in history. For me the circle is an aspect that I tried to amalgamate with our present time," he says.

For Ghoul, the circle is the stone, the ball that a child plays with. He believes that the child in the Intifada throws stones as if he were playing a game, yet these stones have been transformed from play objects to deadly weapons of self-protection.

Another subject analysed is the female, and Ghoul feels that "a woman here is oppressed by males and lives in a prison."

When it comes to drawing the human anatomy though, the artist delves into spaces with thin haphazard lines radiating with a sense of freedom. He relates this phenomenon to the fact that he started his artistic career with abstract painting, unlike other artists who start their training with anatomy. Now, he is trying to perfect his figurative art and to incorporate certain spatial dimensions on the two-dimensional paper.

In this show, Ali Ghoul tries to reach a compromise between the idea of art for art's sake and painting for the audience. In the former an artist experiments and learns, and Ghoul attempts to reach his viewers by applying his academic training to paper to provoke his audience through his interpretations.

● Curt and Geri Davison will depart from Amman on 21 August after their 4-month stay in Jordan to help promote tourism and stimulate the country's economy. Mr Davison, along with his wife's assistance, has been working with the Ministry of Tourism to design a new tourism brochure which will be produced in five languages. The promotion is funded with a USAID grant and the brochure will be distributed throughout the world.

A graduate of Pratt Institute in New York and an award-winning graphic designer and creative director, Mr Davison has also shared his expertise with Jordanian apprentices and various agencies in need of his talent. This experience will hopefully enable Jordan to be more competitive in the international marketing and advertising campaigns and stir the country's economy through the promotion of the country's archaeological and natural wonders.

The couple says that they have enjoyed serving in the Ministry of Tourism and the private sector and they want to thank the Jordanian people for their hospitality.

"Your safe, clean city with its beautiful climate has been a haven for us. We appreciate your fine King, beautiful Queen and Prince Hassan, a special person and all the others who have made our visit memorable. We will treasure our experience here," note the Davisons.

Scrapbook

A Bird's Eyevew

LAST FRIDAY began as an absolutely fabulous day. I did not wake up until about ten o'clock, and I decided to take it easy and relax. In the afternoon, I had as much rest as I could stand and decided to go for a drive.

I was not planning on going anywhere in particular, but found myself on the road to Jerash. The weather was nice, and I was really enjoying driving slowly, listening to some soft music and taking in the scenery. Having reached Jerash, I decided to take a detour and go through the Dibein National Park.

The drive through the park was quite nice. I had a pleasant feeling seeing that so many people were picnicking and seemed to be enjoying the beautiful area. But then, something had to happen to ruin the best mood I had been in in days.

As I rounded one of the hairpin turns in the park, a little boy was running across the street. I stopped about three metres from him (luckily, I was only going at 25 km/h). The little boy couldn't have been more than three years old.

I just sat still watching him stand in the middle of the road. I looked around to see if his mother or father was nearby to retrieve him from the road. I had to wait two full minutes before the boy's mother came running and took him back to the family picnic table. As she carried him away, she looked at me and smiled like she was saying "isn't he cute?"

Actually I did think the little boy was very cute. He had a beautiful face with large brown eyes that smiled at you. But, I did not think that the mother was cute. She wouldn't have been smiling if the driver couldn't stop in time to avoid hitting her son.

Who would be at fault? The driver or the parents? However, the point is not who is at fault or who is to blame. The point is that such accidents do happen and all parents have to do to prevent these disasters is to watch the children a little more closely.

Losing a child can be a devastating experience. Some parents do not get over the grief for the rest of their lives.

I understand that people of all ages die. I am a profound fatalist and believer in God and His will. The causes are many but death is, nevertheless, the same. War, famine, earthquakes, floods, disease and accidents too are mere causes and fate will take its course.

Having said this, I sometimes approach blasphemy when I hear of a child's death in an accident. There is no reason for it. Such fragile beings need and deserve all the care and protection we can give them. If I were that child's mother, I wouldn't be laughing. I would be crying tears of joy knowing my child is going to see his fourth birthday.

Magda Hamzeh

Agenda

Films

● The American Center presents "It Happened One Night", starring Clark Gable, Thursday 9 August at 7 pm. On Sunday 12 August the Center will screen "Some Like It Hot", starring Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis, at 7 pm.

● The British Council presents "Clockwise" on Wednesday 15 August at 6 pm.

● The Goethe Institute presents "Die Grenze" on Tuesday 14 August at 8 pm.

Lectures

● Dr Mu'awiyah Ibrahim will lecture on "Archaeology and Traditional Architecture" at ACOR on Wednesday 15 August at 7 pm.

Exhibitions

● The Royal Geographic Centre presents its 1990 exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre from 14 to 16 August.

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Norwegian Consulate	637164
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RJ Flight Info	(08)53200		

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COMICS

The Far Side

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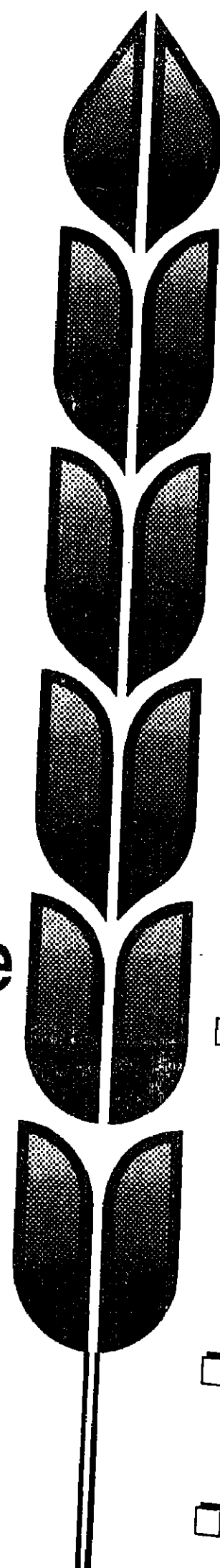
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